



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles

***Veterans' Affairs Committee Public Hearing
February 19, 2013***

**Proposed S.B. No. 700 AN ACT CONCERNING NUMBER PLATES FOR
VETERANS WHO RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART.**

Senator Leone, Representative Hennessey, Senator Welch, Representative Yaccarino and other members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 700, AN ACT CONCERNING NUMBER PLATES FOR VETERANS WHO RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART.

The Department has concerns about this proposal for several reasons. First, please be aware that there already exists the ability for a Purple Heart recipient to obtain a "Military Order of the Purple Heart" license plate for passenger vehicles. A person interested in obtaining such a license plate must contact the organization responsible for the Military Order of the Purple Heart in the first step of obtaining such a plate, in accordance with state statute and regulations. There are dozens of other special interest organizations, military and others, which work with motor vehicle owners who are interested in obtaining a special interest license plate for their passenger motor vehicle. The specific organization then submits the special interest license plate application(s) to DMV for processing.

This proposed legislation would have DMV verify whether a veteran has been awarded the Purple Heart. The Department does not have the expertise nor should it be in the business of determining whether somebody has been awarded the Purple Heart. That responsibility should remain with the Military Order of the Purple Heart organization. At a time when DMV and all other state agencies are streamlining their functions and making every effort to be more efficient with fewer resources, this proposal unfortunately adds additional work and oversight.

Further, the DMV is concerned that should this legislation become law, other special interest plate organizations would possibly seek similar legislation to have the DMV provide additional services and oversight that it is not qualified to perform.

Finally, special interest plates for passenger motor vehicles in general have become problematic because few are ever actually ordered resulting in the wasteful expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars for special reflective license plate sheeting and other materials which never get utilized. While special interest plates are viewed as a popular idea to generate awareness about an issue or organization, the number ordered does not justify the cost of production.

Thank you again for allowing me to submit testimony on this proposed legislation.